FEATURED ARTIST: BRENDALYNN "INUK" TRENNERT

"Inuk" is a northerner through and through, born in Fort Simpson, NT – raised and continues to live and promote the Northwest Territories, through her art work. She is of Inuvialuit and German decent, she has a true love and passion for Mother Nature, family and traditions, which shows throughout her artwork. Inuk was initially inspired by a high school teacher to start tufting and then encouraged by her parents to continue with it. And so began her caribou hair tufting in 1990. Not only did she surprise herself, but others as well with her natural ability.

Since1990 Inuk has helped revive an almost lost northern craft of the Northwest Territories, by teaching and adding a new dimension to tufting, blending a modern and contemporary twist to a traditional northern craft. Over the years, Inuk has come and gone a long way with her caribou hair tuftings and has had the opportunity to travel to many parts of our world, both on her own and to represent her country, and teach how to tuft along the way. To date she has been to various communities throughout the Northwest Territories, Western Canada, New Mexico, Arizona, and Siberia and most recently to Japan as an NWT Ambassador, displaying and demonstrating her artwork at NWT Week in the Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005.

With many accomplishments under her belt, one of her most memorable was when she and her artwork were presented to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip on their Royal Visit to Yellowknife in 1994 where she presented the Royal couple with one of her Caribou hair tufted pictures of an Inukshuk.

She hopes to continue preserving this traditional art form - with her teachings of it and with perseverance, dedication and determination she shows that crossing cultural gaps is possible and teaching this is "most fulfilling." For more information on Inuk's Caribou Hair Tuftings please contact, (867) 874-4230 or e-mail: nt_inuk@hotmail.com

FEATURE OF THE MONTH: QIVIUK

"Qiviuk" is the Inuvialuit word for the fine inner insulating blanket of the Canadian Arctic Muskox.

The muskox is a prehistoric animal still alive today and thriving. Their survival through the last ice age was largely due to their remarkable coat. An outer layer, the guard hair, is sometimes as long as 24 inches, and the inner layer shields them from minus 50 °C temperatures. Because of their shaggy coats, muskoxen appear to be massive animals; in fact, they rarely grow more than chest high on a human. In May, when arctic temperatures begin to rise, muskoxen shed their inner coats, and the tundra becomes littered with the precious fleece.

With proper care and protection they have made a steady comeback both in numbers and in occupied range. The herds are monitored by the Canadian Government, protected by the Inuvialuit Group of the Northwest Territories, and managed in a way that combines tradition and sustainability, ensuring their unthreatened existence.

The fine, insulating down of the Canadian Arctic Muskox is the softest and warmest natural fiber in the world. It is stronger than sheep's wool, eight times warmer, and finer than cashmere.

After the down is harvested it is then cleaned, carded and hand spun into yarn ready for producing fine products. The traditional dressing and tanning process is used to prepare the leather for sewing.

This natural fibre creates wonderfully soft garments and beautifully styled products which have hit the runway in many different parts of the world.

These photos were taken at a fashion show featuring garments made from Qiviuk at Expo 2005 at Aichi Japan.

GNWT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This newsletter is created by the Government of the Northwest Territories and is designed to help the NWT Arts community stay up to date with the current "happenings" in the industry.

In the NWT there are two territorial governmental departments that have shared interests in supporting the Arts – Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and Education Culture and Employment (ECE). ECE aids the creative aspects of the Arts, while ITI's primary role is helping the business side of Arts and Fine crafts. At times, it is difficult to clearly distinguish these roles.

ECE's Role in Supporting NWT Arts

Since 1985, ECE has supported the NWT Arts Council as it strives to stimulate and promote northern Art. The Council's role is to provide recommendations to the Minister of ECE regarding financial awards and workshops. If you would like to apply for funding, please consult the Arts Council website for an application at: www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/artscouncil/about.html

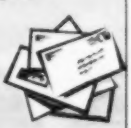
ECE also has a Support to Northern Performers' Program designed to aid in the development and promotion of performing arts and artists in the NWT at local and regional public festivals and events.

Consult the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre website at: www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/programs/comm.htm

ITI's Role in Supporting NWT Arts

ITI recognizes the importance of tradition and the economic potential of the NWT Arts and Fine Crafts industry. ITI's support is provided through the Business Development Fund and Grants to Small Business program. ITI also supports marketing and promotional efforts nationally and internationally by bringing awareness to the importance and value of traditional Art and Fine Crafts in the NWT.

We want to hear from you!



If you hear about any upcoming events or celebrations suited for this newsletter, or if you are a Northern Artist who is interested in being showcased in our Featured Artist section...

Contact us at:

Arts and Fine Crafts Sector Specialist
Investment & Economic Analysis
ITI, GNWT
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9
Ph: (867)920-6130
E-mail :
artsandcraftsnewsletter@gov.nt.ca

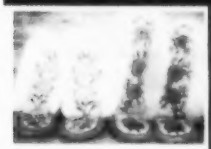
Visit our website:
http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/iea/artscrafts.htm

To find out about financial assistance...

Contact your regional office:

ITI	ECE
Deh Cho: (867) 695-7456	Deh Cho: (867) 695-7332
South Slave: (867) 875-5562	South Slave: (867) 872-7212
North Slave: (867) 920-3473	North Slave: (867) 766-5100
Sahtu: (867) 587-3527	Sahtu: (867) 587-2483
Inuvik: (867) 777-7103	Inuvik: (867) 777-7132

ARTISTS' NEWSLINE



FALL 2005

A GNWT Newsletter for the Northwest Territories Arts Community

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aklavik Dizzy Daze

A fall celebration with activities for the whole family to enjoy.

When: September 3-5, 2005
Where: Aklavik, NT
Contact: (867)978-2351

Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance Auditions

It's that time of year again and Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance is holding a, "Community Dance Class and Auditions for New Company Members Ages 15-Adult". Experience not necessary, dedicated, hard working and a willingness to experiment a must!

When: September 11, 2005
Where: NJ MacPherson Gym
Yellowknife, NT
Contact: (867) 873-4491 or 766-7929
Check out: www.crazylegscontemporary.com

Arts Week

When: September 24-October 2, 2005
Where: Various activities at various locations
Yellowknife, NT
Contact: The Aurora Arts Society at (867) 920-7079
Check out: www.aurora-arts.nt.ca

As the Christmas season approaches, keep your eyes open in the next coming months for Craft Fairs and Bazaars in your community. Always a great opportunity to support your local Artists and Traditional Fine Crafters.

The Edmonton International Film Festival

This is the Festival's 19th year of celebrating the world of independent cinema. Featuring 25 diverse, multicultural and international films.

When: September 30- October 8, 2005
Where: Edmonton, AB
Contact: (780) 423-0844
Check out: www.edmontonfilmfest.com

TASSS Craft Sale

The Artists of the South Slave Society (TASSS) is holding their annual Arts and Crafts Sale just in time for the Christmas season. Lots of unique hand-made items that will make for a one-of-a-kind gift.

When: November 26, 2005
Where: Aurora College Foyer
Fort Smith, NT
Contact: (867)872-3123

The North Star Christmas Celebration

Come and celebrate the festive winter season with northern music, dance and storytelling from across the NWT. A celebration the whole family will enjoy.

When: December 2-3, 2005
Where: Northern Arts and Cultural Centre
Yellowknife
Contact: (867)766-6101

WHAT'S NEW?
NWT ARTISTS GO TO JAPAN

July 2005—Five artists from the Northwest Territories (NWT) were chosen to showcase their talents and represent the NWT's wealth of art, crafts, culture, talent and natural resources to the world as part of NWT week at Expo 2005. Michael Cazon, Lee Mandeville, Antoine Mountain, Brendalynn "Inuk" Trennert and Karen Wright-Fraser traveled as part of the NWT delegation to Aichi, Japan, from July 25-29, to perform and demonstrate their art in the VIP lounge of the Canada Pavilion.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Brendan Bell announced in July that, "our artistic ambassadors will play a key role in stimulating interest in the Northwest Territories. "Their participation provides an added dimension that cannot be achieved from a brochure, video or poster. Their on-site presence and creative demonstrations will connect, on a personal level, with the interests of a high-profile Japanese audience."

The five artists were chosen in consultation with the NWT Arts Council , the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment to represent a broad spectrum of NWT art, culture and regions. "The promotion of NWT arts and traditional fine crafts were an important part of our Expo presence in Japan and reflects the GNWT's commitment to expand all facets of tourism through international exposure and will contribute to the diversification of the NWT economy," said Minister Bell.